

Carson National Forest

***208 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571
505-758-6200***



News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ignacio Peralta
(505) 758-6344
Dorotea Martinez
(505) 758-6345

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Taos, New Mexico, April 1, 2006 – Lack of moisture this past winter has contributed to the drought conditions of the past several years and although the moisture of the past few weeks has been welcome, it will not make a significant change in the overall dry conditions. Governor Bill Richardson has recognized the potential severity of this coming fire season and has declared a State of Emergency to enable New Mexico the opportunity to be prepared.

In our efforts to help provide our communities with information on what to expect and how to prepare, Rio Arriba County Fire Marshal's Office and the Carson National Forest have joined to sponsor informational meetings in the areas of joint jurisdiction in Rio Arriba and the National Forest.

The first in the series of meetings will be held at the El Rito Northern New Mexico Community College on Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 2:00 pm. Topics to be discussed include the fire season outlook, how to prepare in the event of a wildfire or other emergency situation, evacuation plans and how to reduce your risk of losing your home to a wildfire. The meetings will also provide an opportunity for questions and answers about emergency situations.

On April 22, 2006, another meeting is planned at the Tierra Amarilla Middle School at 2:00 pm and on May 6, 2006 at the Rural Events Center in Abiquiu.

Representatives from the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, Rio Arriba County Fire Marshal's Office, Office of Emergency Management, New Mexico State Police, New Mexico State Forestry and other agencies will be present.

For more information please call the Fire Marshal's Office at 505-747-6367 or the Carson National Forest at 505-758-6345.

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